GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6616
ANSWERED ON:09.05.2002
VIOLATION OF JOURNALISTIC ETHICS IN ELECTRONIC AND PRINT MEDIA
BRAHMANAND MANDAL;IQBAL AHMED SARADGI

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of basic principles of journalism;

(b) whether journalistic ethics have been violated by the electronic and print media in the name of extensive coverage of violence and riots which wreck havoc in Gujarat;

(c) whether the Chairman, Press Council of India has issued a strong statement against the said media coverage;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps, the Union Government, propose to take against the media and the press in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a) Press Council of India has informed that they have formulated the `Norms ofJournalistic Conduct`. Similarly guidelines for News Policy of Prasar Bharati have been drawn up on recommendations made by the Advisory Committee on Official Media attached to the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, headed by Shri G. Parthasarthi.In addition, the Programme and Advertising Codes of Prasar Bharati are applicable to the All India Radio, Doordarshan and the contents carried by Cable Network.

(b) to (e): In such situation involving communal flare up, there are always diverse opinions on the impact of media reporting. However, the Chairman of the Press Council of India, has issued appeals on 4th March and 3rd & 8th April, 2002, exhorting the media to ensure that their reporting, particularly in Gujarat, is in accordance with the ethical norms of reporting communal matters and did not add, in any manner, to the flaring up of communal passions and aggravate the existing situation in Gujarat.